



DIVISION OF AERONAUTICS

December 9, 2003

***INFORMATION SHEET-CENTER FOR AVIATION EXCELLENCE PLANNED FOR
DILLANT-HOPKINS AIRPORT***

New Hampshire Senate President Thomas R. Eaton recently announced the establishment of a New Hampshire Community Technical College based in Keene that will include a "Center for Aviation Excellence" at Dillant-Hopkins Airport. A copy of the press release can be seen at www.gencourt.state.nh.us/senate/press/2003/keenecollege.html.

The Division of Aeronautics has long been involved in supporting the Aviation Technology Program, currently at New Hampshire Community Technical College in Nashua. Graduates of this program have the responsibility of maintaining aircraft safety and operation. The nature of this career field has changed greatly in recent years and will continue to change rapidly with advances in computer technology, microelectronics, and composite materials now used in the aviation industry.

Over the past 18 months, the Advisory Committee for this program has reviewed the needs of industry within the state and formulated a recommendation to the technical college system regarding the future requirements of this program. The committee is working with the college to develop a business plan that addresses the maintenance and expansion of the Aviation Technology Program to meet the industry's needs.

The Division of Aeronautics commends the decision to establish an Aviation Center in Keene. In the words of Jack Ferns, the Director of the Division, "The Center for Aviation Excellence in Keene will prove to be an important program to students interested in aviation as a career and will build upon the tradition of academic excellence that the (Community Technical College) system has earned in generating highly trained individuals for jobs in all sectors of the industry."

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